GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1328
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2016
Post Study Stay
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Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tightening of rules on post-study stay in the UK is causing difficulties for Indian students and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether this has resulted in a steep decline in the number of Indian students enrolled in British universities and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken up the matter with the Government of UK; and

(d) if so, the details thereof including the assurances given by the UK Government?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) & (b) The number of Indian students enrolled in the UK universities was 18,320 in 2014-15 as compared to 29,900 in 2011-12 according to the data published by the UK Higher Education Statistics Agency. One of the reasons for this decline is curtailment of the period of post-study stay in the UK. Post-study work visa introduced in 2008 allowed students to remain in the UK for two years after completion of their studies. This visa category was terminated in April 2012. As per the revised rules, post-study stay in the UK for students depends on the duration of their academic courses. For courses longer than a year, post-study stay up to 4 months is available while for courses less than a year, post-study stay allowed is 2 months. These rules are not specific to Indian nationals but apply to all non-EEA (European Economic Area) students. Government of UK has recently introduced a pilot scheme that allows post-study stay up to six months for students applying for a Masters course in UK's top 4 universities.

(c) & (d) This issue has been raised consistently by India in the bilateral discussions held with the UK. The UK side has stated that they welcome Indian students to the UK and that there is no cap on the number of Indian students coming to study in the UK.